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"ATTACHMENT" "GMA" 03747

PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT REPORT

Date of Assessment: 25 - 28 March 1952
Name: MANDEL, Romulus PA-536
Nationality: Estonian
Age: 36
Education: 5 years secondary school,
3 years various officer schools.
Languages: Estonian - excellent
Russian - poor
German - satisfactory minus
Finnish - poor
English - poor
Medical: Disqualified (Tuberculosis, activity
undetermined)

Observations and Evaluations:

Subject is a mature man with considerable self-assurance and ability to handle himself under nearly any circumstance. His intelligence is good all around. While he is a man who customarily looks over a situation before he acts, he is nevertheless a rather fast and efficient worker. Without forcing himself upon others, and without being particularly conspicuous in his behavior, he manages to accept responsibility intelligently and leadership masterfully. His performance on the military problem was quite satisfactory, and his observation, reconnaissance, and map drawing was very good. An older man, with a certain sense of dignity, and considerable interest in his own comfort, he showed very little interest in the obstacle course. He cooperated on the easier and more dignified obstacles, but did not try the rope jump. This did not appear to be a matter of lack of nerve, but rather his feeling that there was no particular point in his undertaking that specific problem.

Subject is a good critic. He goes to the essentials of a problem, is willing to affirm his attitudes even when such affirmation is likely to be to his disadvantage, but at the same time he generally manages to voice criticism in an acceptable manner. He seems to have his feet firmly on the ground, and he has sufficient self-knowledge to make good

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use of his virtues and compensate for his limitations. In general he is very settled in his attitudes. This is not a matter of his refusing to be open-minded, or of his being temperamentally incapable of open-mindedness, but rather the fact that he has reached a stage of maturity where he knows what he believes and is willing to affirm his beliefs despite the risk of a certain amount of personal disadvantage.

The Subject was well liked by his countrymen in the assessment group. Without forcing himself upon the others he functioned as leader of the group. The others described him as friendly, honest, calm and self-assured. One subject, a fairly perceptive man, suggested that Subject's "excessive kind-heartedness" would probably lead him astray. This we doubt, because Subject has a fairly clear idea of what constitutes his own self-interest, but the observation demonstrates his unusual ability for making himself liked.

Subject's political attitudes were not evaluated in detail. When asked to compare his attitudes towards the Communist and Nazi systems, he replied that between the two totalitarian systems he would prefer the latter as a lesser evil. "Whereas in the Soviet Union he saw nothing but poor people and a low standard of living for the Russian population he observed a higher living standard among the German people under the Nazis. This was evidenced by their owning their own houses with nice gardens, higher culture, better roads, etc." It is probable that at one time he had considerable respect, and possibly admiration, for the German authoritarian policy. He must have been impressed by the efficiency and firm control of the German system. It is to be noted that Subject has had experience with a variety of national systems, at least on the military side. At the beginning of the war his Estonian unit was taken over by the Red Army shortly thereafter he was taken prisoner by the Germans, but after a relatively short period in a PW camp he was selected for the Criminal Police, an Estonian organization but undoubtedly under full German control. He served in the criminal police from April 1942 to August 1943 when, for reasons he did not explain, he was released and permitted to return to his father's farm, where he remained until February 1944. At that time he was called into service by the Estonian Home Defense Organization, but, he states, he heard that this organization was to be part of a general German mobilization and therefore left for Finland to volunteer for the Finnish Army. With the capitulation of the Finnish Army he was again taken into the German Army, from which he escaped during the retreat in September 1944. He somehow managed to get home, get married, and get caught by the German Military Police, all in a period of one week. He was brought to Germany, placed in a Labor Camp, and put to work in a saw mill. After three months of this work he was sent to a sanatorium for three months treatment of his lungs. Shortly thereafter the war

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ended and Subject went through the usual UNRRA and IRO camps. Most of the time since 1946 he has worked in various Labor Service Companies. Subject states that he wanted to emigrate to the United States but was medically rejected because of the lesions on his lungs. He claims that the Public Health Authorities submitted his X-rays to the DP Commission for review and that his admission was then approved but too late to meet the deadline for visas.

Despite his alleged efforts to emigrate the Subject still appears anxious to preserve his Estonian nationality, and to a certain extent he appears to be actively avoiding the temptation to be assimilated into the German culture and economy. He expresses a desire to return to Estonia after the Russians have been pushed back to the old frontiers, and he states that before the war he had always considered retiring from business at the age of 40-42 and going into the Civil Service.

Subject was divorced in 1950. He was a little embarrassed by his matrimonial difficulties and produced no details about the break-up. He now has no family responsibilities and does not intend to remarry.

Summary and Recommendations:

Subject has the intelligence, maturity, stability, and leadership potential requisite for F/A. He is, however, a man of 36, and rather settled in his attitudes. These attitudes appear to be basically democratic, but at the same time show a certain distrust and impatience with republican procedures and a high valuation of authoritarian efficiency and control.

He is uncertain about his future since he recognizes that the Labor Service Companies will shortly be discontinued and he will have difficulty becoming absorbed into the German economy. He, therefore, would probably have considerable interest in a F/A proposition.

It should be noted that Subject's medical status is at present "disqualified" owing to the undetermined activity of tuberculosis lesions. Apart from the medical findings his overall rating is "second choice" for F/A. He is not recommended for any immediate operational category.

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